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**r/photography** • 20 hr. ago
Money-Present-2731

⋯

# Photographers & Models Collaboration App: Crazy idea or somehow useful? 🫣

Business

(My previous post was deleted because I released the app's name and it violated the advertising policy at Reddit I guessed. I apologize for it. If it's possible, I would like to just hear some discussion about this idea instead of the real product)

So, I've been working on a web platform idea aimed at helping photographers and models connect and collaborate locally. After moving to the U.S., I realized how tough it can be to find local photographers or models for shoots, especially for things like "Trade For Portfolio" (TFP). Social media can be an option, but Facebook groups can be chaotic, and Instagram isn't the best for finding nearby people.

That's where this idea came from: what if there were a simpler way to connect? Not through social media DMs, but through a platform where you could showcase your portfolio and preferences, and find others in your area or worldwide with similar interests.

**The concept is pretty simple:**

- It's **not** a social media platform (no chat features or DMs).
- You can create a **public profile card** to display your portfolio, location, preferences (like TFP, business, friendships), and social media links.
- There's a **hub** where you can search for photographers/models by location or browse talented creators globally. If you're interested, you'd visit their socials (via the profile card) to start a conversation outside the platform.

Some folks mentioned about the legal & safety concern., I know there will be a lot of them, and I'm trying to figure out the best way to handle that. Since the platform won't host actual messaging or direct deals, the idea is that the site itself isn't responsible for any collaborations or issues—people would use social media or email for communication. But I'm still wondering if there are legal risks I should be aware of. Any advice on that?

Lastly, would a platform like this be something you'd use? Does it solve any problems you've faced when trying to find local collaborators? Or is this idea missing the mark completely? I'd love to hear any thoughts, feedback, or brutal honesty. 😄

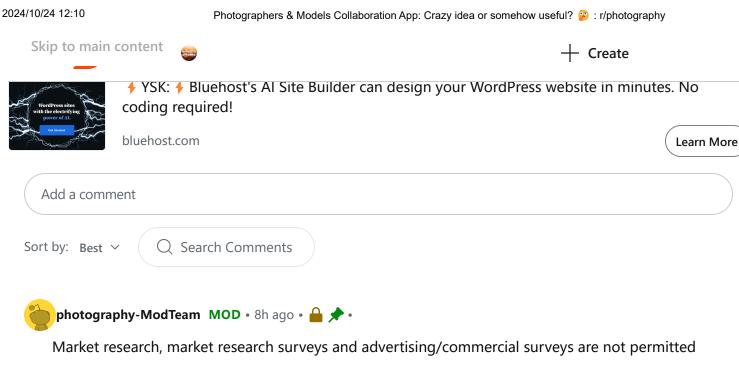Thanks for reading and letting me know what you think!

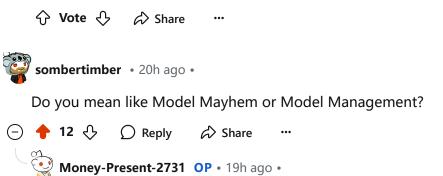🚫 Sorry, this post has been removed by the moderators of r/photography.

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**photography-ModTeam**  **MOD** • 8h ago • 🔒 📌 •

Market research, market research surveys and advertising/commercial surveys are not permitted

For any questions, message the moderators to get started.

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**sombertimber** • 20h ago •

Do you mean like Model Mayhem or Model Management?

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**Money-Present-2731**  **OP** • 19h ago •

I'd say it's similar to Model Mayhem in terms of functionality but with a more modern, streamlined design. Model Mayhem offers a lot of features, which can be powerful, but it also makes the platform harder to navigate, especially for beginners. Plus, it's become quite commercialized. My goal is to create a more user-friendly space specifically tailored to amateurs and those just starting out.

Thanks for your question!

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**mofozd** • 19h ago •

The real question is why would I use your app when I can msg directly someone on IG? I'm not gonna message a model in Dubai or LA, I'm pretty well aware of local models by what they post.

I see a lot of obstacles on your idea, best way to go, is start locally, if you are on a big city, a town simply won't really work, and I would start from there, work out the kinks and if it actually becomes functional for people then go to other cities.

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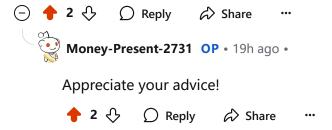**Money-Present-2731**  **OP** • 19h ago •

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mind. The main focus of the app is on local connections, with the broader search feature being more for those who might want to expand their network or collaborate when traveling. I agree, it's likely to be more useful in larger cities like NYC or Chicago, rather than in smaller towns. Thanks for your feedback—I really appreciate it!

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**mofozd** • 19h ago •

It's definitely not impossible to make it work, don't really see people paying for it, if that is your goal.

But realistically speaking, the more grounded way to built this is up, is start in a small market, and by small I mean a big city, and start from there. As much as it should be about functionality the branding is just as important.

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**Money-Present-2731** **OP** • 19h ago •

Appreciate your advice!

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**ejp1082** • 19h ago •
www.ejpphoto.com

So model mayhem? At the very least I don't know what distinguishes your idea from that.
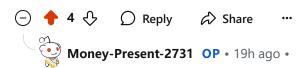
> (no chat features or DMs)

So you have to potentially sign up for a different site in order to contact anyone you're interested in working with?

If you're just going to redirect people to Instagram to communicate, why wouldn't they just use Instagram in the first place?

> preferences (like TFP, business, friendships)

I can't think of anything more radioactive to models than photographers pursuing "friendships" with them

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**Money-Present-2731** **OP** • 19h ago •

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showcase their work and increase their visibility. However, the website will use a more modern, streamlined design, is less commercialized, and focuses exclusively on models and photographers (unlike Model Mayhem, which includes makeup artists, hairstylists, etc.).

2. You don't go to this site if you've already found someone you're interested in on Insta, Tiktok, etc. Instead, it's a place to create a professional profile that's easily discoverable by people searching for models or photographers in your city. Think of it as a more focused portfolio hub, especially for individual creators, not agencies.

3. "Friendships" is probably not the best term—I meant networking and connections. The goal is to help people find local creatives with shared interests or simply connect with others whose work they admire.

Hope that answer your questions and I appreciate your feedback!

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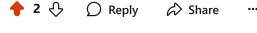
**h2f** • 15h ago •
http://linelightcolor.com

There have been several attempts that I have seen over the years. The problem is that to be attractive you need to have a lot of traffic. It's not worth using unless there are a lot of other people using it. That means that you need a ton of marketing dollars to get it off the ground.

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**GenericRedditor0405** • 13h ago •

This is my reaction too. How do you draw people to a new platform whose appeal is entirely contingent on there already being people worth going there to find? Establishing a new profile is work and there needs to be a good reason to justify that effort, which implies that OP must do a hell of a lot of groundwork ahead of time to attract and retain new users, or offer some very appealing incentives

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**Money-Present-2731** OP • 13h ago •

that's very true, thanks!

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**GenericRedditor0405** • 13h ago •

I know you've mentioned it being less commercialized, but my genuine concern with that promise is that you may require a lot of money to even have a chance at keeping this idea alive long enough to pick up momentum, and even still there will always be that pressure to monetize even just to survive. Ultimately it might not be worth the effort but that's up to you to decide

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**Money-Present-2731** OP • 13h ago •

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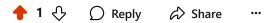
**Sorry-Inevitable-407** • 19h ago •

There's no market for it. If there was, someone would have made it a decade ago.

People contact each other directly or via word-to-mouth. Or they use (free) groups on socials, etc.

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> **Ezelryb** • 17h ago •
>
> With that reasoning no new product would be invented ever
>
> ⬆ 3 ⬇   💬 Reply     ↝ Share     •••

> **Money-Present-2731** OP • 19h ago •
>
> Yes the idea is very similar to Model Mayhem... They did it long ago
>
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**clubley2** • 17h ago •

Just an FYI, TFP is "Time For Prints" You give photos in return for their time.

But also, moving off platform is a risk for models. Model and photographer portfolio websites have checks. I had to upload a selfie and a photo ID for a site I recently signed up for. Moving off platform makes it too easy for a dangerous situation to occur, unfortunately there are a lot of people that will pose as photographers to get vulnerable people alone.

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> **Money-Present-2731** OP • 16h ago •
>
> Thank you.
>
> I think TFP can also be "Trade For Portfolio". Both photographers and models can get practice for free and benefit from each other.
>
> Thanks for your advice! I think it's important to enable a identity verification feature for this kind of website. And yes, unfortunately there are too many people that take advantages of kind and innocent people :(
>
> 🔺 1 ⬇   💬 Reply     ↝ Share     •••

**eichkind** • 17h ago •

to make contacts? Or to be more precise: What would be the advantage compared to simply typing "tfp + city" into google/instagram/facebook?

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**Money-Present-2731** OP • 16h ago •

Thank you for your question. And you're right, instagram/facebook are already good for the tfp purpose.

I guess my point for this website was to make a place for folks to share their portfolio and contact at one place, and it's easier to be found for a specific area since the search would be very location-wise.

I would say facebook is doing a good job in terms of this. You can usually get what you want for searching "tfp + city" but instagram is not. And you're right, maybe I need to find something that differentiates from what facebook can do now...

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**eichkind** • 9h ago •

Sorry if I was too harsh yesterday, I appreciate your thoughts on this. And in general it would probably be good to have a one place solution. But for that, you would need almost all relevant photographers and models on your platform and there I see a lot of difficulty. I think unless you can find something on there, there is not really a value in using your platform.

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